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HOUSE BILL 201

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Edward C. Sandoval

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL
REGISTRATION PLATE FOR RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS; AMENDING A SECTION
OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 66-3-422 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1998,
Chapter 21, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-3-422. SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR FIREFIGHTERS,
[AND] VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND RETIRED FIREFIGHTERS. --

A. The department shall issue special registration
plates to [~~any~~] a person employed as a New Mexico firefighter,
upon the submission by the person of proof satisfactory to the
[~~division~~] department that he is currently employed as a New
Mexico firefighter, including submission of a signed consent
form from the fire chief.

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1 B. The department shall issue special registration
2 plates to ~~[any]~~ a person who is an active volunteer firefighter
3 with a volunteer fire department recognized by the state fire
4 ~~[marshal's office]~~ marshal upon the submission by the person of
5 proof satisfactory to the department that he is currently an
6 active member of a recognized volunteer fire department. Such
7 proof shall include the submission of a signed consent form
8 from the fire chief.

9 C. The department shall issue special registration
10 plates to a person who is a retired firefighter upon submission
11 by the person of proof satisfactory to the department that the
12 person has retired from active employment as a firefighter.

13 ~~[C.—No]~~ D. A person shall not represent himself to
14 be a New Mexico firefighter, ~~[or]~~ a volunteer firefighter or a
15 retired firefighter if he is not, in fact, ~~[not]~~ a New Mexico
16 firefighter, ~~[or]~~ a volunteer firefighter or a retired
17 firefighter. The secretary shall determine what constitutes
18 satisfactory proof of employment as a New Mexico firefighter or
19 status as a volunteer firefighter.

20 ~~[D.—]~~ E. A person who violates the provisions of
21 Subsection ~~[E]~~ D of this section is guilty of a petty
22 misdemeanor and shall be sentenced pursuant to Section 31-19-1
23 NMSA 1978.

24 ~~[E.—]~~ F. A fee of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00),
25 which ~~[shall be]~~ is in addition to the regular motor vehicle

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1 registration fee, shall be collected by the department for the
2 original issuance of the special registration plate for New
3 Mexico firefighters, [~~and~~] volunteer firefighters and retired
4 firefighters.

5 [~~F-~~] G. Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the fee collected
6 pursuant to Subsection [~~E~~] F of this section shall be retained
7 by the department and shall be appropriated to the department
8 to defray the cost of making and issuing special registration
9 plates for New Mexico firefighters, [~~and~~] volunteer
10 firefighters and retired firefighters.

11 [~~G-~~] H. The amount of the fee collected pursuant to
12 this section less any amount distributed pursuant to Subsection
13 [~~F~~] G of this section shall be deposited in the motor vehicle
14 suspense fund for distribution in accordance with Section
15 66-6-23 NMSA 1978.

16 [~~H-~~] I. The secretary shall approve the final plate
17 design for the special registration plates for New Mexico
18 firefighters in accordance with New Mexico law. The secretary
19 shall approve and issue a separate and distinctive plate
20 clearly marked as "volunteer" for issuance to volunteer
21 firefighters. The secretary shall approve the final plate
22 design for the special registration plate for retired
23 firefighters.

24 [~~I-~~] J. When the firefighter holding a special
25 plate ceases to be employed as a firefighter or serve as an

1 active volunteer firefighter, he shall immediately remove the
2 plate from the vehicle and return it to the secretary, at
3 which time it shall be exchanged for a regular registration
4 plate. When a firefighter holding a special plate retires
5 from his position as firefighter, he ~~[may retain the special~~
6 ~~plate]~~ shall return the firefighter plate and shall be issued
7 a retired firefighter plate on request and payment of the fee
8 required. "

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